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Seventh Company
United States Naval Academy
Annapolis, Maryland 21412

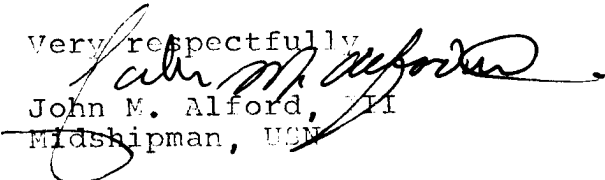
Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

Permit me to express my sincere appreciation for your comments on educational doctrine at the Naval Academy. Professional training, no doubt, is the essence of an education of a Naval Officer. Yet, the most significant error in the Academy's approach to education is that it does not stress that education is a continuing process. There is an inappropriate devotion to detail in the academic disciplines here, and this engenders a disdain for any large-scale thinking. Best characteristic of such disdain is the English program at the Academy which neither fosters a significant interest in literature, nor teaches the student how to communicate effectively. The ability to communicate is essential to all levels of authority. The Academy must emphasize the learning process, and engender an environment in which it will flourish.

In response to your query, my father is Rear Admiral John M. Alford. His approach to a liberal education has influenced me considerably, and the stimulus for this project is a result of the disparity of perception between my approach and the Academy's. I shall be most happy to provide the conclusions of this project to you when completed later this year. Again, Admiral, thank you for providing your insight and comments on this matter.

Very respectfully,


John M. Alford, III
Midshipman, USN